



STATE OF MICHIGAN  
DEPARTMENT OF EDUCATION  
LANSING


RICK SNYDER  
GOVERNOR

MICHAEL P. FLANAGAN  
STATE SUPERINTENDENT

September 23, 2013

**MEMORANDUM**

TO: State Board of Education

FROM: Michael P. Flanagan, Chairman 

SUBJECT: Approval of Criteria for Section 99h: Competitive FIRST Robotics Grants

From the appropriation made under Section 99h of the FY 2013 State Aid Act, \$3,000,000 has been appropriated for competitive grants that expand opportunities to improve mathematics, science, and technology skills by participating in FIRST (For Inspiration and Recognition of Science and Technology) Robotics Competitions. Additional criteria have been proposed by staff. The grant applications are scheduled to be available October 15, 2013, with a November 7, 2013 due date.

It is recommended that the State Board of Education approve the criteria for the Section 99h: Competitive FIRST Robotics Grants as attached to the State Superintendent's memorandum dated September 23, 2013.

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608 WEST ALLEGAN STREET • P.O. BOX 30008 • LANSING, MICHIGAN 48909  
www.michigan.gov/mde • (517) 373-3324

## **MICHIGAN STATE BOARD OF EDUCATION**

### Criteria for Section 99h: Competitive FIRST Robotics Grants

The State Board of Education has adopted as its mission "All students graduate ready for careers, college, and community."

To the extent possible, all grant criteria and grant awards will serve to further attain the above goal.

### **SBE MISSION, POLICIES, AND PROGRAMS THAT THESE CRITERIA SUPPORT**

Disseminate personalized teaching and integrated technology best practices and methods to districts and parents by June 2014.

### **PURPOSE / BACKGROUND OF GRANT**

Type of Grant Program:

- |   |  |   |
|---|--|---|
| <input type="checkbox"/> New                    | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Continuing |   |
| <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Competitive | <input type="checkbox"/> Formula               | <input type="checkbox"/> Legislatively Designated |

The FY2013 State Aid Act appropriated \$3,000,000 for the 2013-14 school year for competitive grants to districts that provide pupils in grades 7-12 with expanded opportunities to improve mathematics, science, and technology skills by participating in events hosted by a science and technology development program known as the FIRST (For Inspiration and Recognition of Science and Technology) Robotics.

### **CRITERIA**

Date criteria were last approved August 13, 2013

Source of Criteria:

- |  |   |
|--|---|
| <input type="checkbox"/> A. Federal Law, Rules or Regulation | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> C. Proposed by Staff                              |
| <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> B. State Law or Rules    | <input type="checkbox"/> D. Defined in MDE's Approved Grant Application to the Funder |

The main criteria upon which subgrantees will be selected/grants will be issued are the following:

Defined in Statute:

- All districts applying for a FIRST Tech Challenge middle school grant or a FIRST Robotics Competition high school grant, shall submit an application in a form and manner determined by the Michigan Department of Education (MDE). To be eligible for funding, a district shall demonstrate in its application that the district

has established a partnership for the purposes of the FIRST Robotics program with at least one sponsor, business entity, higher education institution, or technical school.

Proposed by Staff:

- Applicants will found a middle school FIRST Tech Challenge program or a high school FIRST Robotics Competition program (referred to hereafter simply as a "FIRST Robotics program") in the 2013-2014 school year and register their team with [www.usfirst.org](http://www.usfirst.org), or
- Applicants have a current FIRST Robotics program, team number and coach in place and will use funds available for his or her salary or costs related to FIRST Robotics Program.
- Applicants are willing to offer elective high school credit for students who have successfully logged 60 hours, provided their team attends a minimum of 2 district competitions.

**ELIGIBLE APPLICANTS AND TARGET POPULATION SERVED**

Eligibility requirements:

All individual public school districts, public school academies, and intermediate school districts that enroll students, or operate a FIRST Robotics or Tech Challenge team on behalf of their constituent districts are eligible if they satisfy the following requirements:

- Have a current FIRST Robotics or Tech Challenge program in place that will continue through the 2013-2014 school year.
- Propose to begin a FIRST Robotics or Tech Challenge program in the 2013-2014 school year.
- Program must serve students in grades 7-12.

**TOTAL FUNDS AVAILABLE**

\$3,000,000 - The MDE understands the Legislature intends these funds to provide funding for three school years, 2013-14, 2014-15, and 2015-16.

**STATUTE**

P.A. 60 of 2013 School Aid, Section 99h

**OFFICE ADMINISTERING GRANT / PROGRAM CONTACT**

Linda Forward, Director  
Office of Education Improvement and Innovation  
[forwardL@michigan.gov](mailto:forwardL@michigan.gov)  
517.241.3147

Bruce Umpstead, State Director of Educational Technology and Data Coordination  
Office of Education Improvement and Innovation  
[umpsteadb@michigan.gov](mailto:umpsteadb@michigan.gov)  
517.373.3186